



# The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

March 2005

## Sail Calendar 2005

March 13, Sunday, Class at Island Yacht Club, Alameda. "Basics of sailing the Bay."  
10:30-3:30 Potter Club event, free .

March 19, Sat. Daysail. Launch at B&W Marina in the Delta, sail to Korth's Pirate's Lair for lunch, return to B&W.

April 2, Sat. April 3, Sun. South Bay Potter Rendezvous. Coyote Point Yacht Club. Overnight, dinner at club Sat evening

April 13-17 Sail Expo, Jack London Square (FYI)

April 16, Sat. Daysail. "Usual Suspects Cruise" on the Estuary , Launch at Grand St. Alameda.

April 30, Sat., May 1 Sun. "The Delta Cruise, overnight. Launch and Venue TBA.

May 7, Sat. Daysail. "Shifty Winds" at Del Valle Reservoir, Livermore.

May 11- 26 Usual Suspects North to Puget Sound. (FYI) recommended for experienced sailors only..

June 4, Sat. June 5th Sunday, Woodward Annual overnight campout near Oakdale, CA.

July 1, 2, 3 Eagle Lake Campout, Susanville CA.

July 16, 17 "The Cruiser Challenge" in Monterey. Annual fun race/social weekend, sponsored by Potter Yachters/ MPYC.

July 30 Richmond Daysail

Aug. 20 Richmond-Loch Lomond

Sept. Tomales Bay weekend. Date TBA

October 1, 2, Monterey Overnighter

October 8 fleet week, Estuary to T.I. Cove

October 29 Buckley Cove to Windmill Cove

## *Sometimes the South Bay is calm....*



*And Sometimes its not! (See other photo, page 3). Above, on a pleasant March morning, Pat Malone sets out for Ballena Bay from Oyster Point in his P-15 "Festina Lente"*

## Directions to Potter Club Class "Navigation for San Francisco Bay Sailors" Sun. March 13th

Island Yacht Club, Alameda Marina, 1853 Clement Ave., Alameda, Ca. 94501 Building 12, near Svendsen's Boatyard Office 10:30am-3:30pm

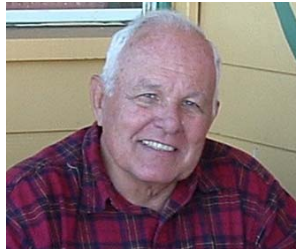
### **By Car:**

Driving from Oakland, follow the "to Alameda" signs on Hwy 880 North or South. This will take you through the Webster Street Tube from Oakland into Alameda. You will be on Webster St in Alameda at this point. Go to the second stop light, turn left. You will be on Santa Clara. Turn left on Grand, a stop light, go on Grand to Clement, turn right on Clement. (If you go straight, you will end up in the Oakland Estuary. Don't do that.) In about a block, you will see gate 7 of the Marina complex on your left. Turn into that gate. Follow the "Island Yacht Club" signs, and you are there! **Things to bring** for the Potter Class: 1. Some **lunch** (break will be short). 2. Bring **Pencils, erasers, paper**, and any navigation tools you already have, SF Bay charts, GPS etc. (GPS is optional).

The Commodore's Corner

Great Topics set up for Sunday

**Class...** I had a great chat with Commodore Emeritus, Judy Blumhorst, and here are some of the projected topics for the Class at Island Yacht Club on Sunday, March 13th. Some that are planned include, Navigating Shipping Channels safely, Using the VHF Radio Properly, Reading Tide and Current Tables, Calculating a course, using Line of Sight Navigation and ranges, Navigating Fog with and without GPS, and so on. This won't be a complete course of Navigation by any means, but will be a good 'brush up' for the experienced skippers, and a good introduction to new members as to some of the knowledge they may wish to develop further in future. There will not be food service readily available and only a short lunch break, so it is recommended to bring along some lunch for yourself.



**March 19th. Saturday Daysail, will launch at Isleton in the Delta, 9:00am.** B&W Marina has a website at: [www.bandwresort.com/](http://www.bandwresort.com/) sail to Korth's Pirate's lair for lunch then return to B&W.

**B&W Resort Marina** 964 Brannan Island Road Isleton-Delta Loop, CA 95641 Phone 916-777-6161

I hope you're having a great sailing month, and hope to see you on the water soon. Don't forget to let us know if you planning on sailing, or having dinner with us, and/or over-nighting at Coyote Point April 2,3. (see page 3).

Cheers, Bruce

Bruce Hood, Commodore 2005

The Officer's Club

2005

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P-19 266 *Redwing*



At left, Commodore Bruce sails "Eilidh" with red nylon ribbon tell-tales on the Jib ... tell-tales can help both beginner and experienced sailors alike, to adjust their jib and mainsheets so that their sails are working at maximum efficiency, and will also reveal the common flaw of "over trimming". Going up-wind, the telltales are streaming nicely, on the leeward side...

## ***Sailing in High Winds and Choppy Waters on the South Bay!***

Oyster Point is about twelve miles south of San Francisco on the west side of the bay. Ballena Bay is a little northeast, eight miles away, on the east side of the bay and on the northwest part of Alameda Island. This sail can be expected to produce calm, light wind, gentle wind, moderate wind, and sometimes, *almost gale force wind* as the day progresses. The sea state goes from flat to pretty aggressively confused chop. Fairly strong current is the rule so it is prudent to know its times and direction as the route crosses it. Typically the morning launch at Oyster Point is very relaxed. Oyster is a well maintained facility and has a well protected launch ramp, with a very good small store and deli. The wind in the morning is light at the start but sailing is usually possible for an hour or so. At about the midpoint of the trip we motor up, toward Ballena, as what little wind there was, is behind us. The water is flat, so there is a peaceful hour or so to relax, to listen to the sound of the motor and contemplate just how pleasant sailing day it is. The Ballena Bay Harbor entrance is a little tricky to find but is about a mile south of the aircraft carrier Hornet which is easy to spot. The Harbor Master is helpful about letting us tie up at the dinghy dock and not charging for our stay while we have lunch at the small cafe. The marina is very clean and pleasant and a good destination for a day sail. After drinks and sandwiches we head out. Rounding the point into the bay we find about five knots of wind and sail away. The wind begins to rise, shifting



sharply to the west, directly on our nose. The next hour, as we tack, the wind gradually increases until, again about midway, it is really blowing pretty good and the chop is one to two feet. It isn't long until heeling is getting excessive, the chop is bouncing us around, and it is time to reef. This settles things down quite a bit. The wind is up to 20 knots plus, the chop now is about three feet, very confused, and there is a fair amount of pounding. Also a lot of spray comes over the bow. P 15's sail quite dry, but on this trip, boats and skippers ended up wet. Even with sails reefed, all of us were good and wet! With forceful wind dead ahead and the mean chop, we are not making much headway and as the sun is setting the motor is again called upon for the last half mile. We all made the Oyster Point ramp at dusk and by the time the boats were ready for the road it was dark. All in all a grand sail with a chance to use all the virtues of a P15 from quiet noodling to spirited action. They are really fine little vessels. *(Story and photos by Don Person)*

## **Check in : Let Us Know if you Plan on Attending the April 9, 10 Coyote Point Gathering...**

If you are planning to attend or probably will attend, please e-mail, or phone in your "reservation".. Tell us:

1. No. of Persons who will attend
2. No. of Persons and boat, who will be at Coyote Pt. Yacht Club Sat. April 9th, ... and 10th?
3. No of Persons who will attend Spaghetti Dinner ( \$18.50- plate ) evening of April 9th.
4. Boat size, and if overnighting on boat                      E-mail [bruce.hood@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bruce.hood@sbcglobal.net)                      Phone 510 846-4306



# The Potter Yachter

February 2005

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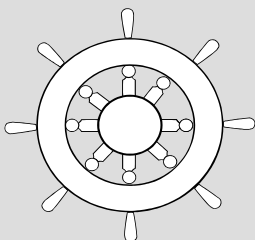
## Inside the Potter Yachter

**Page 1 Oyster Point, Sunday Class.**

**Page 2 Commodore's Corner; Educational Topics..**

**Page 3 Don Person describes rough water in the South Bay!**

**April 2-3 Reservations...**



## With a Grain of Salt

The **Potter Yachter** is a forum for exchange of ideas and information among West Wight Potter (and other mini-yacht) sailors. But we Potter Yachters are mostly a bunch of amateurs finding our way by trial and error and luck.

You will probably find some very helpful tips or ideas in the Potter Yachter that will enhance your sailing experience, but you may also find some ill-advised suggestions or ideas that just don't work for your particular boat, your sailing environment, your level of sailing experience, or your boat-working skills. So please understand that any sailing tutorials, suggested boat modifications, recommended cruises, etc., are the opinion of the author, based presumably on his or her personal ex-

perience and judgment at the time the article or letter was written.

If a Potter Yachter believes s/he has a good idea and submits it to the newsletter for publication, we will usually pass it on to the rest of you in the newsletter, but take it "with a grain of salt" and a large portion of your own good judgment, and perhaps get a second opinion before undertaking a modification or cruise or sailing technique you read about in the **Potter Yachter** (or any other publication) - *The Editor*

